

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 19 are currently pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the restriction and/or election requirement in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. The Office Action asserts that claims 1-7 and 13-19 are directed to patentably distinct species shown in FIG. 4, FIG. 7, FIG. 8, FIG. 9, and FIG. 11.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect, *with traverse*, to prosecute the embodiment of FIG. 4 with claims 1-3, 5-7 and 13 readable thereon. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected embodiments and claims in divisional or other continuing application.

With regard to Applicants traversal of the election requirement, Applicants respectfully note that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions (MPEP 803). Accordingly, as the Action fails to demonstrate a serious burden on the Examiner with respect to searching and/or examination of the entire application (MPEP 803.02, 806.04(a), 808.01(a), and 808.02) in view of the admitted interrelationship of the features/elements defined by the various claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement and examination of the entire application on the merits are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, the drawings and all claims presented in this application are currently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

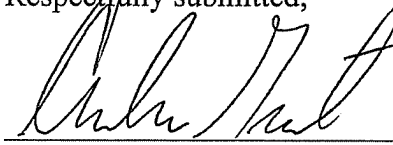
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Respectfully submitted,



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